

REMARKS

The present invention describes a vehicle charger accessory for a mobile device, such as a cellular telephone, personal data assistant, etc. As well understood, mobile device manufacturers and suppliers commonly use the term “vehicle charger” to refer to an accessory that interfaces a mobile device with a vehicle power supply to charge a battery of the mobile device. According to the present invention, the vehicle charger includes a first plug adapted to connect to the mobile device. A light source mounted or disposed on the first plug provides illumination while the user connects the plug to the mobile device.

The Examiner rejects all pending claims of the present application as anticipated by or obvious in view of several references. As discussed further below, none of these references discloses or suggests the claimed invention and reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

First, the Examiner rejects independent claim 1 under §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,241,385 to Asano. Asano describes a car light, such as a large flashlight, having a detachable plug that fits within a cigarette lighter socket in a vehicle. As such, the light source taught by Asano receives power from a vehicle battery. However, the device in Asano is not a vehicle charger for a mobile device and does not have a first plug that is adapted to connect with a mobile device, as required by claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to make it more clear that the first plug is “adapted to connect to the mobile device.” This amendment does not add a new limitation, since that was the intent of the original claim language. Applicant realized that the original claim could be misconstrued and has elected to amend the claim to avoid any possible confusion over the meaning of the claim.

Next, the Examiner rejects independent claim 16 and dependent claim 17 under §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,135 to Posses. Posses describes a vehicle charger for

a mobile device having a digital recorder system and speaker phone. The Examiner asserts that plug 3 and terminal 4 of Posses correspond to the first and second plugs, respectively, of claim 16. The Examiner's attempt to read claim 16 on Posses is disingenuous in that the Examiner ignores explicit functional limitation in the claims. Claim 16 states that the first plug "is adapted to connect with the mobile device," and that the second plug "is adapted to connect with the power supply of a vehicle." As clearly described by Posses in column 3, lines 45 – 48 and shown in Figure 1, plug 3 of the vehicle charger connects to a cigarette lighter socket of a vehicle and thus corresponds to the second plug. Terminal 4 connects to a mobile device and corresponds to the first plug. However, terminal 4 (corresponding to the first plug) does not have a light source mounted thereon. Accordingly, Posses does not anticipate claims 17 and 17 because the requirement of a light source on the first plug (the one that connects with the mobile device) is not met.

The Examiner rejects claims 1- 6, 8 – 14, and 16 – 20 under §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,551,142 to Eisenbraun. Eisenbraun describes a vehicle charger 10 for an electronic device, including a mobile device. As clearly shown in Figure 1, vehicle charger 10 includes plug 20 and plug 14 interconnected by cable 18. Plug 20 represents a plug adapted to connect to a mobile device, while plug 14 represents a plug adapted to connect to a cigarette lighter socket in a vehicle (Figure 1, column 3, lines 11 – 18, and column 4, lines 8 – 16). Further, Figure 3 shows that plug 14 includes two light sources 88 and 90. As such, Eisenbraun clearly teaches that all light sources are disposed on the cigarette lighter plug 14, and not the electronic device plug 20.

As with Posses, the Examiner asserts that the cigarette lighter plug 14 of Eisenbraun corresponds to the first plug of the independent claims. However, independent claims 1, 8, and 16 explicitly require that the first plug be adapted to connect to a mobile device. Because Eisenbraun clearly teaches that plug 14 is adapted to connect to a cigarette lighter and not to an electronic device, the Examiner's rejection is based on a flawed interpretation of Eisenbraun.

Each of the independent apparatus claims 8 and 16 require that the light source be part of the first plug and that the first plug is adapted to connect to a mobile device. Because the mobile device plug 20 taught by Eisenbraun does not include any type of light source, Eisenbraun cannot anticipate independent claim 8 or claim 16, or dependent claims 8 – 15 or 17 - 21. Further still, because Eisenbraun does not teach or suggest mounting a light source on a plug adapted to connect to the mobile device, Eisenbraun cannot anticipate independent claim 1 or dependent claims 2 - 7. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Lastly, the Examiner rejects dependent claim 15 under §103 in view of Eisenbraun ('142) and also rejects dependent claim 21 under §103 in view of Eisenbraun ('142) and further in view of Eisenbraun (U.S. Patent 5,690,509). However, because independent claims 8 and 16 are patentable, as discussed above, these rejections are moot.

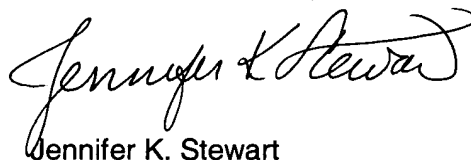
The Examiner also objects to claim 7 for improperly depending on a larger base claim. To correct this defect, Applicant amends claim 7 to depend from claim 6, as shown in the attached claim amendments.

For at least the reasons presented above, Applicant asserts that claims 1 – 21 are patentably distinct from the cited art. As such, Applicant requests the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the application to move forward to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.

By:



Jennifer K. Stewart
Registration No. 53,639

P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone: (919) 854-1844